THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government is not aware of any such centre set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of cars

843. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government save any proposal under consideration to increase the export of ears during the current year;

(b) if so, the demand of different makes of cars in various countries; and

(c) the targets fixed for the export of such cars during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government is implementing various promotional schemes for promoting exports of various goods including cars. A growth rate of 12.4 per cent during the current year in exports of engineering goods including cars has been projected.

(b) According to the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), some of the countries to wsich cars from India are being exported are Argentina, Australia, Egypt, Greece, Germany and Nepal.

(c) The export target for complete vehicles (including cars and two-three wheelers) has been fixed at Rs. 925 crores for 1994-95.

Effect of GATT on India's Ten Trading

844. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whetser the GATT Treaty will affect the tea trading of India; and

(b) if so. the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The GATT Treaty has resulted in reduction of tariffs by a number of major importers of Indian tea. It is ikely to have a positive impact on exports of tea depending upon the competitiveness of Indian tea in the international market.

Import of Gold

845. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of gold imported during the last three years aongwith the names of tse countries of imports and the agencies through which it was imported: and

(b) steps taken to encourage gold mining in tse country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Gold is included in the Negative List of Imports of the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 and thus cannot be imported freely. It can, however, be imported under following schemes:—

(i) Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Scheme.

(ii) Special Import Licences granted to eligible categories of exporters.

(iii) Import of gold by NRIs.

A statement indicating details of gold imported during last three years is given sere. (*See* below).

(b) With a view to encourage mining in the country, a new National Mineral Policy was announced and consequential amendments were made in the MMRD Act, 1957. which permits the exploitation of gold by the private sector.